

Appl. No.: 09/592,309
Amdt. dated: December 30, 2003
Reply to Office action of September 29, 2003

PATENT
Docket No. **EPI-024 US**
7008092001

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 8-10 have been amended

Claims 1-4 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,108,687 issued to Craig ("Craig").

Craig discloses:

A system is disclosed for providing synchronized presentation of slides over a computer network. In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the system includes a plurality of computer workstations disposed in electrical communication across the computer network, each workstation running a Web browser application (e.g. Netscape's Navigator, Microsoft's Explorer, etc.). An instructor applet is executed under a browser application at a first of the plurality of computer workstations, and at least one student applet is executed under a browser application at a second of the plurality of computer workstations. Finally, a network server is provided and runs a synchronization application that is responsive to the instructor applet for managing a plurality of URLs that define the totality of the presentation. The synchronization application includes a code segment to direct each of the student applets to retrieve and display the presentation slides located at the URLs designated by the instructor and displayed via the Web browser. The display is synchronized in that the same presentation URL is displayed at the instructor workstation and each of the plurality of student workstations.

(Abstract). This section of Craig does not disclose "said means for transmitting comprising a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the Internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the Internet," as recited in amended claim 1. Craig also discloses:

In short, the present invention operates by synchronizing the display of information slides among an instructor applet (running on a first workstation) and one or more student applets (running on other workstations). In one embodiment, the student applets operate in a "slave" mode, whereby the display of informational

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slides is substantially passive (from the user perspective), except for the initialization of the application (i.e., calling up and beginning the presentation by downloading the applet and the list of URLs that defines the presentation). The invention allows a person operating the instructor applet to identify information slides for display on both the instructor workstation and the student workstations.

Typically, an instructor (human) will prepare the content of information slides that comprise a presentation. However, in accordance with the inventive concepts, the instructor may simply identify and designate existing Web pages to comprise a presentation. Indeed, a significant aspect of the invention is that the information slides require no special processing or pre-formatting, and every slide could conceivably exist as a URL on a separate Web server. For example, a person (instructor) may "surf" the Web identifying various Web sites that contain information that the instructor would like to consolidate and present as a single encapsulated presentation. This may be done simply by noting the URLs that define the various Web locations that correspond to the information to be presented and implicitly the order of their presentation. The URLs may be collected and stored as a single web document and placed on a Web server. Thereafter, the instructor and student applets need only access the URL at the Web server to retrieve the single document containing the list of URLs that defines the totality of the presentation. In this way, a robust presentation may be assembled simply by identifying information (that is already available) on the Web. Accordingly, a significant aspect of the invention is that the information slides may be located virtually anywhere on the Internet, and thus allow for a robust presentation.

A significant feature of the present invention is that it provides for synchronization between the display of information slides among the instructor workstation and one or more student workstations. This synchronization is preferably achieved by one or more student applets establishing a connection to the lecture synchronization server application (running on the Web server). For each URL/slide location identified by the instructor (human), the server application communicates this same information to each of the student applets that have established a connection with the synchronization server. In this manner, the information slide designated by the URLs selected by the instructor may also be displayed on the student workstations.

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(Col. 3, line 45 to col. 4, line 29). This section of Craig does not disclose "said means for transmitting comprising a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the Internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the Internet," as recited in amended claim 1. Craig also discloses:

Otherwise an acknowledgement is sent and the user has control over all student sessions coordinated by the LectureServer 77.

(Col. 12, lines 54-56). This section of Craig does not disclose "said means for transmitting comprising a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the Internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the Internet," as recited in amended claim 1. Craig also discloses:

Although voice information may be separately provided (in parallel) using telephone and an independent PSTN connection, this may also be integrally implemented with, for example, the use of simultaneous voice/data modems.

(Col. 4, lines 51-55). This section of Craig does not disclose "said means for transmitting comprising a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the Internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the Internet," as recited in amended claim 1. Craig also discloses:

Therefore, applicants submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over Craig. Given that claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 as amended, applicants submit that these claims are also patentable over Craig.

Craig does not disclose "sharing a web browser of one of said plurality of participants with each of the other of said plurality of participants, so that the shared web browser causes the

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plurality of participants to collectively surf through the Internet," as recited in amended claim 8.

Therefore, applicants submit that amended claim 8 is patentable over Craig.

Craig does not disclose "operably connecting each said participants computers such that the display of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the shared browser interface," as recited in amended claim 9. Therefore, applicants submit that claim 9 is patentable over Craig. Given that claim 10 depend from claim 9 as amended, applicants submit that these claims are also patentable over Craig.

Craig does not disclose "means for operably connecting each of said participants computers such that the display of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the shared browser interface," as recited in amended claim 11. Therefore, applicants submit that amended claim 11 is patentable over Craig.

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 based on Craig in view of "*Using Microsoft Powerpoint 2000*" by Rutledge et al. ("Rutledge").

Craig does not disclose "sharing a web browser of one of said plurality of participants with each of the other of said plurality of participants, so that the shared web browser causes the plurality of participants to collectively surf through the Internet," as recited in claim 5 as amended.

Rutledge does not disclose "sharing a web browser of one of said plurality of participants with each of the other of said plurality of participants, so that the shared web browser causes the

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plurality of participants to collectively surf through the Internet," as recited in claim 5 as amended.

Therefore, applicants submit that claims 5-7 are patentable over Craig in view of Rutledge. Given that claims 6-7 depend from claim 5 as amended, applicants submit that these claims are also patentable over Craig in view of Rutledge.

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CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner may call the Assignee's attorney at the number below to further advance prosecution of this case to issuance.

DATE: December 30, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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